



## The Sorrows of Young Werther (Dover Thrift Editions)

By Johann Wolfgang von Goethe



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**The Sorrows of Young Werther (Dover Thrift Editions)** By Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

One of the world's first bestsellers, this tragic masterpiece attained an instant and lasting success upon its 1774 publication, catapulting the author to the forefront of the German literary movement known as *Sturm und Drang*. A burst of parodies, operas, poems, and plays based on *The Sorrows of Young Werther* rapidly ensued, along with the cultlike following of young romantics across Europe who affected the manner of the novel's passionate and self-destructive hero.

Young Werther bares his soul to readers in the form of alternately joyful and despairing letters about his unrequited love. His story marks the initial great achievement of what has since been termed "confessional" literature; Goethe, who based the story in part on his own unhappy love affair, acknowledged a sense of freedom upon completing the work. A sensitive exploration of the mind of a young artist, the tale addresses age-old questions — the meaning of love, of death, and the possibility of redemption — in the exuberant language of youth. "*Werther* appeared to seize the hearts of men in all quarters of the world, and to utter for them the word which they had long been waiting to hear," observed the Victorian sage Thomas Carlyle. Indeed, Goethe's portrayal of *Zerrissenheit*, "the state of being torn apart, in which a character struggles to reconcile his artistic sensibilities with the demands of the objective world, proved tremendously influential to subsequent writers, and *The Sorrows of Young Werther* continues to speak to modern readers.



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### **Editorial Review**

Language Notes

Text: English, German (translation)

From the Inside Flap

A major work of German romanticism in a translation that is acknowledged as the definitive English language version. The Vintage Classics edition also includes NOVELLA, Goethe's poetic vision of an idyllic pastoral society.

From the Back Cover

When this book was published in 1774, it inspired a mass cult of feelings (and reputedly a few suicides) and made its author one of the first literary celebrities. It is a story of a tormented young man whose fixation on an inaccessible woman culminates in tragedy may be read as a celebration of unfettered emotion or as a mercilessly accurate portrait of a man whose dedication to pure feeling turns him into a monster.

### **Users Review**

**From reader reviews:**

**Curtis Monahan:**

Have you spare time for just a day? What do you do when you have a lot more or little spare time? That's why, you can choose the suitable activity with regard to spend your time. Any person spent their very own spare time to take a stroll, shopping, or went to typically the Mall. How about open or even read a book called The Sorrows of Young Werther (Dover Thrift Editions)? Maybe it is to become best activity for you. You realize beside you can spend your time along with your favorite's book, you can more intelligent than before. Do you agree with their opinion or you have some other opinion?

**Sandra Jordon:**

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